



Young Scientists Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

Concept Note Updated December 12th 2015 (to be reviewed and closed February 2016)

Summary

Engaging young scientists in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a vital addition to the work of other stakeholders engaged in policy design, implementation, monitoring and review. Young scientists are pushing the boundaries of research and its contribution to context specific application for improved decision making across spatial and temporal scales. The innovative capacity of the younger generation should be utilised to ensure that best practices and scientific evidence is used to support decision makers now and in the future. A designated space is needed where young scientists can collaborate and exchange knowledge with their peers to utilise and tailor their current and future interdisciplinary research to meet the needs of decision makers. This will enable increased availability and application of their extensive scientific research and knowledge on DRR for decision making in the implementation, monitoring, follow up and review of the Sendai Framework.

Background

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030¹ (hereby referenced as Sendai Framework) was adopted by Member States on 18 March 2015 at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction ([WCDRR](#)) held in Japan, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2015.

In addition to other major points, the Sendai Framework placed importance on enhanced investments in youth engagement in science and technology as enablers for implementing and monitoring resilient societies. It has been recognized that young scientists from various disciplines within the crosscutting field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) have the potential to enable an effective and sustainable implementation of the Sendai Framework.

¹ Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015–2030. In: UN world conference on disaster risk reduction, 2015 March 14–18, Sendai, Japan. Geneva: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; 2015. Retrieved from http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf .

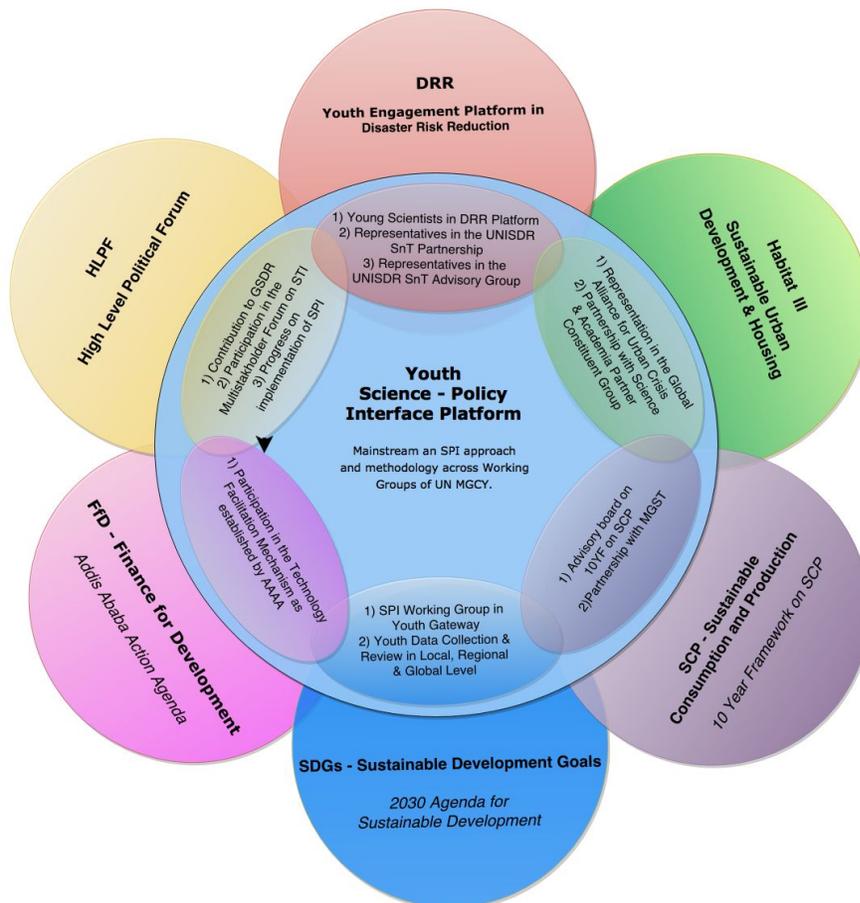
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A Platform Facilitated by the UN Major Group for Children and Youth - www.childrenyouth.org



Rationale

In order to facilitate opportunities for young scientists to function within a global and interprofessional environment, while sharing knowledge and discussing good practices and emerging trends of the Sendai Framework implementation, the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) has put forward the idea of developing *The Young Scientists Platform on DRR*. The Platform will provide an enabling environment and network that links young scientists, community actors and policymakers, and provides an avenue for knowledge exchange and participation in interdisciplinary, intersectoral, transboundary and transnational discussions and collaborations. These discussions will provide evidence-based and scientifically-derived recommendations and contributions to the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.



The Platform will also facilitate access for young scientists, together with the wider youth community, to facilitate tracking of youth contributions and inputs feeding into the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) within its component of follow up and review of the Sendai Framework and other relevant follow up activities.

Graph 1: *Young Scientists Platform on DRR relates to the already existing UN frameworks for 2015-2030 and facilitates the implementation of their key objectives.*

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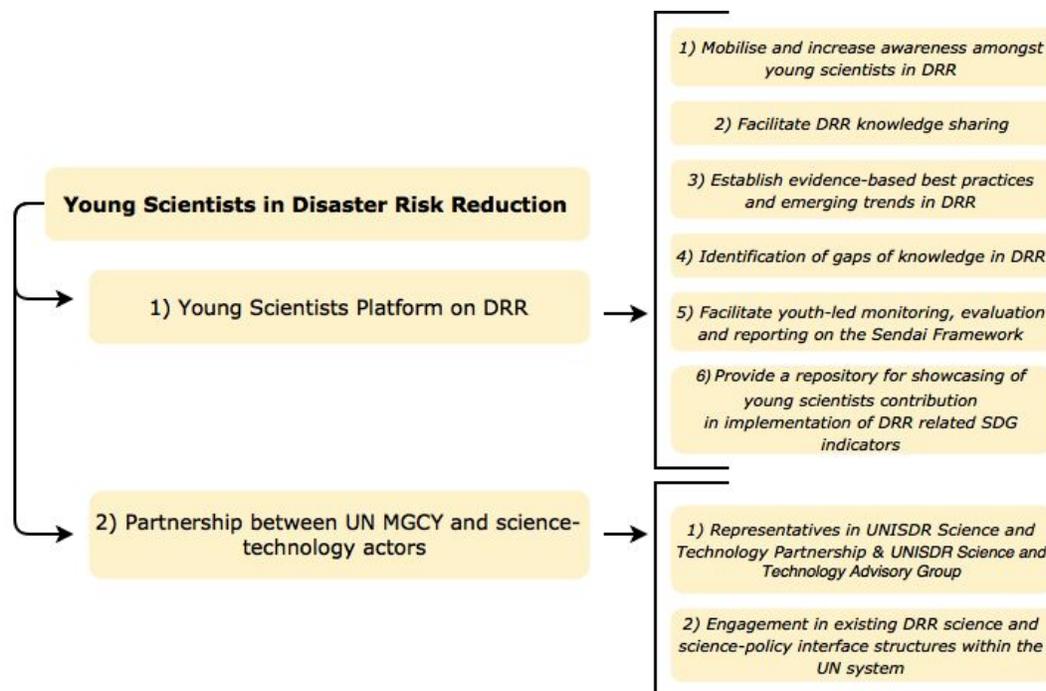


Vision

A platform where young scientists share and co-create knowledge to support evidence-based practices/methodologies for DRR policy design, implementation, monitoring and review, and where young scientists from all regions² and disciplines have a space for meaningful contributions and engagements at all steps of the process of creating an inclusive and resilient society.

Mission

Provide and maintain a transparent and inclusive interprofessional and inter-generational platform with the purpose of bringing together young scientists working in the field of DRR to share their interdisciplinary experiences and knowledge, and contribute collaboratively to evidence-based implementation, monitoring, and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework



Graph 2; The Young Scientist Platform on DRR objectives.

² Eastern and Southern Africa; Europe and Others; Latin America and the Caribbean; North and South East Asia; South and Central Asia; West and Central Africa; Middle East and North Africa; Pacific



Objectives

1. Establish and maintain a Young Scientists in DRR Platform with the following objectives;
 - a. Mobilise and increase awareness amongst young scientists in DRR to interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration (defined as collaboration between different age groups) in applying their existing and ongoing scientific research for evidence-based implementation, monitoring and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework, and encourage engagement of young scientist from divers regional representation;
 - b. Facilitate DRR knowledge sharing among young scientists in DRR;
 - c. Facilitate an interprofessional global dialogue among young scientists in DRR on evidence-based good and best practices and emerging trends in DRR;
 - d. Facilitates collaboration between young scientists and other groups, such as community actors and policy makers on identification of gaps of knowledge in DRR, recommendations on good practices and emerging trends to the review of the Sendai Framework implementation;
 - e. Facilitate youth-led monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Sendai Framework;
 - f. Provide a repository for showcasing of young scientists contribution on DRR knowledge development, analytical works, and good practices documentation, as well as other SDG-related indicators;
 - g. Support the development of new research agendas tailored to complement the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework for postgraduate research, and where possible, in collaboration with universities, research organisations, NGOs and the private sector.



2. Establish an interprofessional and intergenerational partnership between UN MGCY and science-technology-innovation actors focusing on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework.
 - a. Facilitate membership of the UN MGCY Young Scientist Platform on DRR partnership with the UNISDR Scientific and Technology Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and representation to the UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group;
 - b. Engagement in existing DRR science and science-policy interface structures within the UN system to contribute establishing good practices and emerging trends in the Sendai Framework implementation, monitoring and review.

Governance and Management

The Young Scientists in DRR Platform builds on the success of individuals and networks already engaged in this field, and it is facilitated by the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY). The platform and all its activities are open for any and all young scientists. Funding and speaking opportunities facilitated through the platform would be applicable/prioritised to those who fall under the official UN definition for *youth*, namely 30 years old and below.

The facilitation of the platform will be coordinated by the UN MGCY in partnership with UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG), United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Council for Science(ICSU), Global Network for Disaster Risk (GNDR), Inter-Agency Network for Youth Development (IANYD), Office for Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) with active participation from members and other youth-led organisations. The main source of communication will be the Platform's official mailing list, managed by the facilitator. Information generated by the platform will also be shared in relevant websites and other online platforms.

The everyday facilitation of the platform will be managed by one to two Platform facilitator(s) selected every second year through transparent selection³. The facilitator(s) will work in close relation with the UN MGCY DRR Working Group Deputy Organising Partner and Regional Focal

³ The selection will take place in line with the UN MGCY Process and Procedures instructions on selection for Regional Focal Points.



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Points, the Platform Focal Point will also have close relation with and report to the UN MGCY Internal Working Group on Science_policy Interface Facilitator.

All members of the UN MGCY DRR Working Group are welcomed to participate and contribute to the platform.